**CHAPTER 30**

**AFTER THE FALL: THE WESTERN WORLD**

**IN A GLOBAL AGE (SINCE 1985)**

***Essays:***

1. How and why did the Cold War end? Did anyone “win” this conflict? Who? Why?

2. When, how, and why did the Soviet Union collapse?

3. In what ways have the former Soviet satellite nations handled the demise of Russian Communism as a

ruling system? Have these countries been successful? Which countries have made the transition from

totalitarianism to freedom most effectively? Why?

4. What are the basic problems and antagonisms between Serbia and the other countries that once made

up Yugoslavia—Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Slovenia? What forces in the

post-Cold War world enabled this dangerous and bloody conflict to escalate so terribly?

5. What major economic challenges have plagued the West during the 1980s, the 1990s, and the early

twenty-first century?

6. “The Iraq war was the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time.” Discuss with specifics the

pros and cons the quotation.

7. What are Modernism and Postmodernism and how have they been expressed in art, music, and

literature since 1945?

8. In what ways were the movements of existentialism and the revival of religion responses to the

“despair generated by the apparent collapse of civilized values in the twentieth century”?

9. What was the role of science and technology in the post-war Western world? What fundamental

critiques have been made of science? Why do you think the mass public is now both ignorant of and

wary of science and scientists?

10. What role has popular culture played in the Western world since World War II?

11. What forces have conspired to cause the return of racism, war crimes, and genocide in the Balkans?

How did the reformations or reformulations of society, politics, and culture in the region after World War

II lay the ground work for current upheavals there?

12. Is the world facing a “clash of civilizations” in the near future? Why and or why not?

13. “Globalization is going to be the salvation of civilization.” Discuss, pro and con.

14. Discuss, with specific examples, what has been gained and what has been lost as a result of the digital

revolution.

***Identifications:***

1.Mikhail Gorbachev

2. *perestroika* and *glasnost*

3. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

4. Boris Yeltsin

5. Commonwealth of Independent States

6. Chechnya

7. Vladimir Putin

8. Lech Walesa and Solidarity

9. Vaclav Havel

10. Czech Republic and Slovakia

11. fall of the Berlin Wall

12. Yugoslavia

13. Bosnia

14. Slobodan Milosevic and “ethnic cleansing”

15. Kosovo

16. Helmut Kohl, Gerhard Schroeder, and Angela Merkel

17. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown

18. Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy

19. Silvio Berlusconi

20. the European Community/EC

21. Maastricht Treaty

22. the European Union/EU

23. the euro

24. Bill Clinton

25. George W. Bush

26. Office of Homeland Security

27. Hurricane Katrina

28. Brian Mulroney, Jean Chretien, and Stephen Harper

29. Ronald Reagan and the Cold War

30. the Gulf War/Persian Gulf War

31. George H. W. Bush and the “New World Order”

32. Baader-Meinhof gang/Red Army Faction, the Red Brigades, the IRA

33. Pan American flight 103

34. September 11, 2001, and the World Trade Center

35. Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda

36. the Taliban and war in Afghanistan

37. Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction

38. Iraq war

39. Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds

40. “guest workers”

41. Jean-Marie Le Pen’s National Front and Jorg Haider’s Freedom Party

42. neo-Nazis and “skinheads”

43. Christian and Islamic fundamentalism

44. Pope John Paul II

45. Anselm Kiefer’s *Departure from Egypt* and Jean-Michel Basquiat’s *Self Portrait*

46. grunge, hip-hop, gangsta rap

47. Microsoft and Bill Gates

48. e-mail, cell phones, and the iPod

49. *Lord of the Rings* and the Harry Potter films

50. multiculturalism

51. globalization

52. World Bank, multinational/transnational corporations, GATT, and the WTO

53. Union of Concerned Scientists

54. global warming/greenhouse effect

55. NGOs